

Message Text

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41

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06

CU-04 OMB-01 EUR-25 NIC-01 AID-20 A-01 SY-10 USSS-00

OPR-02 FBO-01 PC-04 DRC-01 /219 W
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P R 171716Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7802

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PE

SUBJECT:GENERAL STRIKE IN AREQUIPA AND OTHER DISTURBANCES

REF: LIMA 8366

1. GENERAL STRIKE IN AREQUIPA WHICH BEGAN NOVEMBER 15 IN PROTEST AGAINST SUTEP TEACHER UNION CRACKDOWN IS CONTINUING, AND ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE THAT TWO INDUSTRIAL PLANTS HERETOFORE CONTROLLED BY MILGOV - SUPPORTING MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNISTS WILL JOIN STRIKE. COMMERCE AND TRANSPORT IN AREQUIPA REMAIN PARALYZED EVEN THOUGH MOST FACTORIES IN AREQUIPA'S INDUSTRIAL ZONE STILL OPERATING, WITH ROCK BARRIERS AND TACKS DISRUPTING TRAFFIC ON MANY STREETS. ROAMING BANDS OF STUDENTS AND STRIKERS CONTINUED BREAKING WINDOWS AND STONING SOME PRIVATE CARS, BUT POLICE ABLE DISPERSE THEM AT WILL AND KEEP THEM FROM KEY POINTS. APPROXIMATELY 3,500 RAILWAY WORKERS THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN PERU ARE PARTICIPATING IN STRIKE AND ATTEMPTING TO SPREAD IT TO PUNO, CUZCO AND PORTS,
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WITH UNKNOWN SUCCESS. ASSOCIATION OF AREQUIPA PROFESSIONAL

ORGANIZATIONS HAS PLEDGED PARTICIPATION IN STRIKE.

2. MILGOV HAS OFFERED LIMITED CONCESSION TO STRIKERS BY PROMISING TO BRING ARRESTED TEACHERS TO PROMPT TRIAL AND TO CONSIDER REHIRING THOSE FIRED, BUT STRIKE FRONT HAS REJECTED OFFER. RADIO TRANSMITTER AT UNIVERSITY WHICH HAD BACKED STRIKERS AND ATTACKED MILGOV AND MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNISTS WAS DYNAMITED NOV. 16.

3. POLICE RAIDED TEACHER HEADQUARTERS AT PUNO AND ALLEDGEDLY FOUND 220 MOLOTOV COCKTAILS, DYNAMITE, AND ARMS. AT LIMA, LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING STRIKE ATTEMPTED ANOTHER DEMONSTRATION, BUT WERE ABLE TO TURN OUT ONLY ABOUT 150 STUDENTS WHO FLED FROM FIRST POLICE CHARGE. THEY LATER BROKE A FEW WINDOWS, INCLUDING FOUR AT EMBASSY, BUT WERE HARDLY NOTICED IN DOWNTOWN EVENING TRAFFIC.

4. COMMENT: POLICE SEEM TO BE USING MINIMUM FORCE REQUIRED TO COUNTER THE HIT-AND-RUN TACTICS OF DEMONSTRATORS IN BOTH LIMA AND PROVINCIAL CITIES, AND NO SERIOUS VIOLENCE OR SERIES OF NEW ARRESTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED SO FAR THIS WEEKEND. NEVERTHELESS THE DEMONSTRATORS, WHO SEEM FOR THE MOST PART TO BE MAOIST AND TROTSKYITE STUDENTS, ARE SHOWING CONSIDERABLE STAYING POWER, AS IN CASE OF AREQUIPA STRIKE. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT THE TWO MOSCOW-LEANING UNIONS IN THAT CITY ARE JOINING STRIKE ONLY AS RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM WORKERS; MOSCOW-LINE COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO SUPPORT GOP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. OTHER ELEMENTS APPARENTLY SUPPORTING AREQUIPA STRIKE ARE PROFESSIONALS, WHO ARE MORE INCLINED TO BE ANTI-MILGOV THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
BELCHER

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